

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[MT-924-1430-01; MTM 83585]

Cancellation of Proposed Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation; Montana

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice terminates the segregative effect of a proposed withdrawal of 19,764.74 acres of public lands requested by the Bureau of Land Management for protection of the unique resources within the Sweet Grass Hills Area of Critical Environmental Concern and other adjoining land areas. The lands will remain closed to mining by an overlapping withdrawal. The lands have been and will remain open to surface entry and mineral leasing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 29, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra Ward, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107, 406-255-2949.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the **Federal Register** (60FR38852) July 28, 1995, which segregated the lands described therein for up to 2 years from location and entry under the mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, but not from the general land laws or the mineral leasing laws. The Bureau of Land Management has determined that withdrawal of the lands in aid of legislation will not be needed and has canceled its application.

At 9 a.m. on May 29, 1997, the proposed withdrawal will be terminated and the lands will be relieved of the segregative effect of the above-referenced application.

Dated: April 15, 1997.

Thomas P. Lonnie,

Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation 332-381]

The Impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the U.S. Economy and Industries: A Three Year Review

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of public hearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 25, 1997.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on April 23, 1997, of a request from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-381, *The Impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the U.S. Economy and Industries: A Three Year Review*, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Information on economic aspects of the investigation may be obtained from Kyle Johnson, Office of Economics (202-205-3229), Hugh Arce, Office of Economics (202-205-3234), or William Donnelly, Office of Economics (202-205-3223), and on legal aspects, from William Gearhart, Office of the General Counsel (202-205-3091). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202-205-1819). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202-205-1810).

Background

The USTR's letter requesting the investigation was received on April 23, 1997. The letter notes that section 512 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3462) requires the President to provide to the Congress by July 1, 1997, a comprehensive study of the operation and effects of the NAFTA during its first 3 years. The letter states that the Commission's investigation and report are to serve as a resource which the Administration can draw upon in preparing its report to the Congress.

As requested by USTR, the Commission in its report on the investigation will provide (1) a literature review and analysis of existing studies that have assessed the impact on the United States of NAFTA in its 2 first 3 years; (2) a discussion of the technical issues involved in formal economic assessment of the impact of a partially implemented free trade agreement, while considering other non-agreement factors affecting trade flows during the same period; and (3), to the extent possible, an analysis of the aggregate effects on the economy of the Agreement in its first 3 years.

As requested, the Commission in its analysis of the impact of NAFTA on U.S. trade with NAFTA partners will use formal empirical methods, as well as the industry expertise maintained by the Commission. It will consider relevant micro- and macro-economic factors, such as exchange-rate fluctuations (including the effects of the peso crisis), economic growth, and other

agreements, including the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement and the phase in of Uruguay Round commitments, that affected the U.S. economy, so as to isolate those effects, to the extent feasible, from the factors that relate specifically to the NAFTA.

As requested, the Commission will examine for NAFTA effects the U.S. industries in which U.S. exports to Mexico or Canada or imports into the United States from Mexico or Canada have increased significantly. The Commission will also examine, in addition to trade effects, changes in wages, employment, productivity, and investment that occurred as a result of NAFTA, and changes in U.S. trade with third countries induced by NAFTA. In assessing these factors, the Commission will, to the extent possible, attempt to distinguish between the consequences of NAFTA and events that likely would have occurred without the Agreement, and will consider NAFTA effects in the context of the overall performance of the U.S. industries analyzed.

Public Hearing

A public hearing in connection with the investigation will be held in the Commission hearing room, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20436, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on May 15, 1997, and continuing on May 16 if an additional day is needed. All persons have the right to appear by counsel or in person to present information and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be filed with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C. no later than noon, May 9, 1997. Hearing statements should be filed not later than COB May 12, 1997. Any posthearing submissions must be filed not later than COB May 22, 1997.

In the event that, as of noon on May 9, 1997, no witnesses are scheduled to appear at the hearing, the hearing will be canceled. Any person interested in attending the hearing as an observer or non-participant may call the Secretary to the Commission (202-205-1816) after May 12, 1997, to determine whether the hearing will be held.

Written Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written statements (one original and 14 copies) concerning the matters to be addressed in the report. Commercial or financial information that a party desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. (Generally,